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auto

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auto (aw'tō) *n.* (*pl. autos*) (*esp. N Am.*) short for AUTOMOBILE.

auto- (aw'tō), **aut-** *comb. form* 1 self. 2 one's own. 3 from within or by oneself. 4 operating independently; self-propelling, self-regulating.

autobahn (aw'təbahn) *n.* a motorway in Germany, Austria or Switzerland.

autobiography (awtəbiogr'fē) *n.* (*pl. autobiographies*) 1 a memoir of one's life, written by oneself. 2 the writing of one's own memoirs.

autobiographer *n.* **autobiographic** (-graf'ik), **autobiographical** *a.* **autobiographically** *adv.*

autocar (aw'tekər) *n.* a vehicle driven by its own mechanical power, a motor vehicle.

autocephalous (awtōsef'ələs, -kēf'-) *a.* 1 (of an eastern Church) having the power to appoint its own synod, bishop etc. 2 (of a bishop, Church) independent. **autocephaly** *n.*

autochthon (awtōk'θōn, -thōn) *n.* (*pl. autochthons, autochthones* [-θānēz]) 1 any one of the original or earliest known inhabitants. 2 an aboriginal animal or plant.

autochthonous *a.* 1 native, indigenous. 2 (*esp. Geol.*) occurring, formed or originating in the place where found.

autoclave (aw'teklāv) *n.* 1 a sealed vessel used for chemical reactions at high temperature and pressure. 2 an apparatus using superheated steam for sterilizing, cooking etc.

autocracy (awtōk'resē) *n.* (*pl. autocracies*) 1 absolute government by a single person. 2 the power wielded by an autocrat. 3 a country under autocratic rule.

autocrat (aw'tokrāt) *n.* 1 a sovereign with uncontrolled authority. 2 a dictatorial person.

autocratic (-krat'-) *a.* absolute, despotic. **autocratically** *adv.*

■ *a.* absolute, all-powerful, bossy, despotic, dictatorial, domineering, high-handed, imperious, oppressive, tyrannical. **ANTONYMS:** lenient.

autocross (aw'tōkros) *n.* the sport of motor racing across country or on unmade roads.

Autocue® (aw'tekū) *n.* a device that displays the text to be spoken by a person on television.

auto-da-fé (awtōdāfē') *n.* (*pl. autos-da-fé* (awtō-)) 1 a sentence pronounced by the Inquisition. 2 the execution of this judgement. 3 the burning of a heretic.

autodidact (awtōdī'dakt) *n.* a self-taught person. **autodidactic** (-dīdak'-) *a.*

auto-eroticism (awtōrō'atizm), **auto-eroticism** (-irot'-) *n.* (*Psych.*) self-produced sexual pleasure or emotion, e.g. masturbation. **auto-erotic** (-irot'-) *a.*

autofocus (awtōfōk'əs) *n.* a facility in some cameras for automatically focusing the lens.

autogamy (awtōgā'mē) *n.* (*Bot.*) self-fertilization. **autogamous** *a.*

autogenous (awtōjē'nəs) *a.* 1 self-engendered, self-produced, independent. 2 (of a graft, vaccine) originating from sources within the patient's own body.

autogiro (awtōjērō), **autogyro** *n.* (*pl. autogiros, autogyros*) an aircraft in which the lifting surfaces are the freely-rotating blades of a large horizontal airscREW.

autograft (awtōgrāft) *n.* a surgical graft that moves tissue from one point to another in the same individual's body.

autograph (awtōgrāf) *n.* 1 a signature written esp. by a celebrity for an admirer. 2 a person's own handwriting. 3 a manuscript in an author's own handwriting. ~*v.t.* 1 to write one's signature on or in, esp. at the request of an admirer. 2 to write with one's own hand.

autographic (-graf'-), **autographical** *a.* 1 written by one's own hand. 2 of or relating to autographs or autography.

autography (-tog'-) *n.* 1 writing with one's own hand. 2 one's own handwriting. 3 a process of reproducing handwriting or drawing in facsimile.

Autoharp® (awtōhāp) *n.* a zither-like instrument having dampers which stop selected strings from sounding and allow chords to be played.

autoimmune (awtōimūn') *a.* (*Med.*) of or caused by antibodies that attack the molecules, cells etc. normally present in the organism producing them. **autoimmunity** *n.*

autointoxication (awtōintoksikā'shēn) *n.* (*Med.*) reabsorption of toxic matter produced by the body.

autolysis (awtol'isis) *n.* the breakdown of cells by the action of enzymes produced in the cells themselves. **autolytic** (-lit'-) *a.*

autostrada

automat (aw'təmat) *n.* 1 a vending machine. 2 (*N Am.*) a restaurant or room equipped with automatic machines for supplying food etc.

automate (aw'tēmat) *v.t.* to make automatic; to bring automation to. ~*v.i.* to apply automation.

automatic (awtēmat'ik) *a.* 1 operating without direct or continuous human intervention. 2 (of actions, behaviour) spontaneous, reflex. 3 (*derog.*) (of actions, behaviour) habitual, merely mechanical. 4 certain, unavoidable. 5 (*Psych.*) carried on unconsciously. 6 (of a firearm) repeatedly ejecting the empty shell, introducing a new one and firing, until the trigger is released. 7 (of a vehicle) having automatic transmission. ~*n.* 1 an automatic firearm. 2 a motor vehicle with automatic transmission. **automatically** *adv.* **automaticity** (-tis'-) *n.*

■ *a.* 1 automated, mechanical, mechanized, push-button, self-acting, self-activating, self-regulating. **ANTONYMS:** hand-operated, manual. 2 instinctive, involuntary, mechanical, reflex, spontaneous, unconscious. **ANTONYMS:** deliberate, intentional, voluntary. 4 certain, ineluctable, inescapable, inevitable, routine, unavoidable. **ANTONYMS:** avoidable.

automatic pilot *n.* a device which automatically maintains an aircraft or spacecraft on a predetermined course.

automatic transmission *n.* power transmission in a motor vehicle in which the gears change automatically.

automation (awtēmā'shēn) *n.* 1 the use of self-regulating or automatically programmed machines in the manufacture of goods. 2 the introduction of such machinery to save labour.

automatism (awtōmāt'izm) *n.* 1 the quality of being automatic. 2 involuntary action. 3 (*Psych.*) the performance of actions without conscious control. 4 automatic routine.

automatize, automatise *v.t.* 1 to make automatic. 2 to automate. **automatization** (-zā'shēn) *n.*

automaton (awtōmātōn) *n.* (*pl. automats, automata (-ta)*) 1 a machine that is activated by a concealed mechanism and power source within itself, a robot. 2 a machine of this kind that simulates human or animal actions. 3 a person who acts mechanically or leads a life of monotonous routine.

automobile (awtēməbēl', aw'-) *n.* (*esp. N Am.*) a motor car.

automotive (awtēmōtiv) *a.* 1 self-propelling. 2 of or relating to motor vehicles.

autonomic (-nom'-) *a.* 1 (*Biol.*) occurring involuntarily, spontaneous. 2 of, relating to or mediated by the autonomic nervous system.

autonomic nervous system *n.* the part of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates the involuntary actions of the heart, glands and some muscles.

autonomist *n.* an advocate of autonomy.

autonomous *a.* 1 of or possessing autonomy. 2 self-governing or partially self-governing. 3 able to act or act independently. **autonomously** *adv.*

■ *a.* 2 independent, self-governing, self-ruling. **ANTONYMS:** dependent, subsidiary.

autonomy (awtōnō'mē) *n.* (*pl. autonomies*) 1 the right of self-government. 2 an independent state or community. 3 freedom to act as one pleases. 4 in Kantian philosophy, freedom of the will. 5 organic independence.

■ *n.* 1 home rule, independence, self-government, self-rule. **ANTONYMS:** dependency.

autopilot (awtōpilōt) *n.* AUTOMATIC PILOT.

autopista (awtōpēs'ta) *n.* a motorway in Spain.

autopsy (awtōpsī, -top'-) *n.* (*pl. autopsies*) 1 a post-mortem examination. 2 a critical examination. 3 a personal observation. ~*v.t.* (*3rd pers. sing. pres. autopsies, pres. p. autopsying, past, p.p. autopsied*) to perform a post-mortem examination on.

■ *n.* 1 post-mortem, post-mortem examination. **ANTONYMS:** biopsy.

autoradiograph (awtōrā'diegrāf) *n.* a photograph produced by radiation from, and showing the distribution of, radioactive particles in a body. **autoradiographic** (-graf'ik) *a.* **autoradiography** (-grāfē) *n.*

autorotation (awtōrōtā'shēn) *n.* rotation resulting from the shape or structure of an object in an airflow, not from a power source. **autorotate** *v.i.*

autoroute (awtōroot) *n.* a motorway in France.

autostrada (awtōstrādā) *n.* a motorway in Italy.

autosugg

autosuggest self, esp. the condition etc.

autotelic (a'utōtel'ik) *a.*

autotimer appliance, e

autotomy (a'utōtōmē) the body, e.g.

autotoxic n

autotoxin n it attacks.

autotrophic capable of m by photosyn

autotype (a process for r by this proc

autowinder automatically been taken.

autoxidatic spontaneous

autumn (av summer and nal equinox months from and from M or incipient

autuminal (- in autumn. n

autumnal when the st 22 Sept. in southern).

autumnal saffron.

auxiliary (a 3 applied to auxiliaries)

auxiliaries 2 (*Gram.*) ar the service assists, esp.

■ *a.* 1 aiding, ancillary, re ary. **ANTONY** auxiliary verbs.

auxin (awk hormones.

auxology (-ologist n.

AV abbr. 1 au

Av. abbr. ave

avadavat (a SE Asian w avail (avail')

helpful. 3 to age to. ~n. effectual, in use of.

available (a disposal. 2 c tractable. 4 (n. available

■ *a.* 1 at one ready, ready 2 accessible reach. **ANTO**

avalanche (or sliding overwhelmi avalanche.

avant-gard tastes or tre

teatgerm

l of the order
their oil and
; etc. (*We had*
ose formerly
in long, thin
ceps rex, with
employed in
Carcharhinus
&, *Rhincodon*

~v.i. (*pres.p.*
with a loud,
'Am.) an evil
blow or mis-
drum etc.) to
bang.

ling place for
nsisting of a
to moor at a

r this.
arf.
ge of a wharf.
. 2 (*rel.*) that
r which. ~a.
r etc. 2 how
rel.) such as,
at extent, in
f the kind. or
ive someone
punishment.
; what is the
r what at all
son, purpose
2 what does
re moreover.
that matter?
uation. **what**

ag at all that.
matter what
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Jse a knife, a
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us *Triticum*,
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if the genus

vitamins.

wheatgrass

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wheatgrass *n.* couch grass.
wheatmeal *n.* flour containing much of the original wheat grain.
~a. made from such flour.
whee (wē) *int.* used to express delight or excitement.
wheedle (wē'dl) *v.t.* 1 to entice, to win over, to persuade by coaxing or flattery. 2 to cheat by cajolery. 3 to obtain from or get (out of) by coaxing and flattery. **wheedler** *n.* wheedling *a.* **wheedlingly** *adv.*
■ *v.t.* 1 (*coll.*) butter up, cajole, charm, coax, entice, flatter, induce, inveigle, persuade, talk (someone) into.
wheel (wēl) *n.* 1 a circular frame or solid disc turning on its axis, used in vehicles, machinery etc. to reduce friction and facilitate motion. 2 a machine, implement, device etc. consisting principally of a wheel, such as a spinning wheel, potter's wheel, steering wheel etc. 3 an object resembling a wheel, a disc. 4 (*pl., coll.*) a car. 5 (*N Am., coll.*) a bicycle. 6 a Catherine wheel. 7 a turn, a revolution. 8 the turning or swinging round of a body of troops or a line of warships as on a pivot. 9 a set of short lines at the end of a stanza. ~v.t. 1 to move or push (a wheeled vehicle etc.) in some direction. 2 to cause to wheel. ~v.i. 1 to turn or swing round as on a pivot. 2 to change direction or objective, to face another way. 3 to go round, to circle, to gyrate. **at the wheel** 1 driving a motor vehicle. 2 steering a vessel. 3 directing, in control, in charge. **to wheel and deal** to be a wheeler-dealer. **wheels within wheels** 1 intricate machinery. 2 (*coll.*) concealed reasons or interdependent circumstances. **wheelless** *a.* **wheelily** *a.*
■ *v.t.* 1 push, shove, trundle. ~v.i. 1 spin round, swing round, turn round, whirl round. 3 circle, go round, gyrate, revolve, rotate.
wheel-back *a.* (of a chair) having a back shaped like a wheel.
wheelbarrow *n.* a barrow usu. supported on a single wheel, with two handles by which it is wheeled.
wheelbase *n.* the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle.
wheelchair *n.* a chair on wheels, esp. for invalids or disabled people.
wheel clamp *n.* a clamp fixed on to the wheel of an illegally parked car to prevent it from being driven away before a fine is paid. **wheel-clamp** *v.t.*
wheeled *a.* having wheels (*usu. in comb.*, as *four-wheeled*).
wheeler *n.* 1 a person who wheels. 2 a wheelwright. 3 (*in comb.*) a vehicle with the specified number of wheels (*a three-wheeler*).
wheeler-dealer *n.* a person who operates shrewdly and often ruthlessly in business, politics etc. **wheeler-dealing** *n.*
wheelhouse *n.* a shelter for the steersman on a boat.
wheelie *n.* (*sl.*) a manoeuvre in which a bicycle or motorcycle is briefly supported on the rear wheel alone.
wheelie bin, wheely bin (*coll.*) a large plastic dustbin with two wheels so that it can be tilted and wheeled to the dustcart, where it is emptied automatically.
wheelspin *n.* the revolution of wheels without a grip of the road.
wheelwright *n.* a person whose occupation is to make or repair wheels etc.
wheeze (wēz) *v.i.* to breathe hard and with an audible sound, as in asthma. ~v.t. to utter thus. ~n. 1 a wheezing sound. 2 (*coll.*) a joke, a trick. 3 (*coll.*) a design, a scheme. **wheezer** *n.* **wheezy** *a.* **wheezily** *adv.* **wheeziness** *n.*
■ *v.i.* breathe noisily, breathe roughly, gasp, hiss, rasp, whistle. ~n. 3 design, expedient, idea, plan, plot, ploy, ruse, scheme, stunt, trick.
whelk (welk) *n.* a marine spiral-shelled gastropod of the family Buccinidae, esp. the common whelk, used for food.
whelp (welp) *n.* 1 the young of a dog, a pup. 2 the young of a beast of prey, a cub. 3 an offensive or ill-bred child or youth. 4 (*usu. pl.*) a ridge on the drum of a capstan or windlass. ~v.i. (of a bitch etc.) to give birth to young. ~v.t. 1 to give birth to (a pup or cub). 2 (*derog.*) to originate or produce.
when (wen) *adv.* 1 (*interrog.*) at what or which time? 2 (*rel.*) at which (time), ~conjunction. 1 at the time that, at any time that. 2 as soon as. 3 just after the time that. 4 after which, and then. 5 although. 6 considering that. 7 while (*often with pres.p.*). ~pron. what or which time. ~n. the time or date.
whence (wens) *adv.* (*formal*) 1 (*interrog.*) from what place? where from? how? 2 (*rel.*) from which place, origin, source etc. ~conjunction. 1 to

whiffle

or at the place from which. 2 for which reason, wherefore. ~pron. what or which place or starting point.
whenever (-ev'ə), (*poet.*) **whene'er** (-ea') *adv., conj.* at whatever time. or whenever (*coll.*) or at any similar or suitable time.
whensoever, (*poet.*) **whensoe'er** *adv., conj. (formal)* whenever.
where (we) *adv.* 1 (*interrog.*) at or in what place, situation, case, circumstances? 2 (*interrog.*) to what place? in what direction? 3 (*rel.*) in which (place or places). ~conj. 1 in or to the place, direction etc. in which. 2 whereas. ~pron. what or which place. ~n. the place (*the where and when*).
whereabouts *adv.* near what or which place roughly? ~n. the approximate location of a person or thing.
■ *n.* locality, location, place, position, site, situation.
whereafter (wearahf'te) *conj. (formal)* after which.
whereas (weərəz) *conj.* 1 the fact on the contrary being that, when in reality. 2 in legal preambles etc., the fact or case being that, considering that.
whereby (-bi') *conj.* by which.
wherefore *tadv.* 1 for what reason? why? 2 for which reason, on which account. ~n. (*coll.*) the reason why.
wherein (weərin) *adv. (formal)* in what place or respect? ~conj. in which thing, place, respect etc.
whereof (weərəv) *adv. (formal)* of what? ~conj. of which or whom.
wheresoever, (*poet.*) **wheresoe'er** *adv., conj. (formal)* wherever.
whereupon (weərəpən) *conj.* 1 upon which. 2 in consequence of or immediately after which.
wherever (weərəv'ə), (*poet.*) **where'er** (-ee') *adv., conj.* at, in or to whatever place. or **wherever** (*coll.*) or in any similar or suitable place.
wherewith (-widh') *adv. (formal)* with what? ~conj. with which.
wherewithal *adv., conj.* wherewith, ~n. (*coll.*) the necessary means or resources, esp. money.
■ *n. (sl.)* bread, capital, cash, (*sl.*) dough, finance, funds, means, money, ready money, reserves, resources, (*coll.*) the readies.
wherry (wer'i) *n.* (*pl.* **wherries**) 1 a light shallow rowing boat for plying on rivers. 2 a type of barge.
whet (wet) *v.t. (pres.p. whetting, past, p.p. whetted)* 1 to sharpen by rubbing on a stone or similar substance. 2 to excite, to stimulate (*to whet the appetite*). ~n. 1 the act of whetting. 2 anything taken to whet or stimulate the appetite. 3 a small quantity. **whetter** *n.*
■ *v.t.* 1 edge, hone, put an edge on, sharpen, strop. 2 arouse, excite, kindle, rouse, stimulate, stir, titillate.
whether (wedh'ə) *conj.* introducing (an indirect question in the form of) an alternative clause followed by an alternative *or*, *or not*, or *or whether*, or with the alternative unexpressed (*whether you like it or not*). **whether or no** 1 in any case. 2 which (of two opposite cases).
whetstone *n.* 1 a piece of stone used for sharpening cutlery etc. 2 anything that sharpens or stimulates.
whew (hwū, fū) *int.* used to express relief, astonishment or consternation.
whey (wā) *n.* the watery part of milk that remains after the curds have formed and been separated.
whey-face *n.* a pale-faced person. **whey-faced** *a.*
which (wich) *pron.* 1 (*interrog.*) what person, thing or persons or things of a definite number. 2 (*rel.*) used in a subordinate clause to represent a noun expressed or understood in the principal sentence or previous clause. 3 (*rel.*) used after a preposition or after *that* (*the ladder on which she was standing*). ~a. 1 (*interrog.*) what (person, thing etc.) of a definite number. 2 (*rel.*) used with a noun defining an indefinite antecedent. **which is which** used when people or things are difficult to tell apart.
whichever, twichichever *pron.* 1 which person or thing of two or more. 2 no matter which person or thing. ~a. 1 which of two or more. 2 no matter which.
whiff (wif) *n.* 1 a sudden expulsion of smoke etc., a puff, a light gust, esp. one carrying an odour. 2 a small amount, a trace. ~v.i. 1 to puff or blow lightly. 2 (*coll.*) to smell (unpleasant). ~v.t. 1 to puff or blow lightly. 2 to detect a faint odour of, to sniff, to smell.
■ *n.* 1 blast, draught, gust, puff. 2 hint, suspicion, suggestion, suspicion, trace.
whiffle (wif'əl) *v.i.* 1 (of the wind etc.) to veer about. 2 to change from one opinion or course to another, to prevaricate, to equivocate. 3 to flicker, to flutter. ~v.t. to blow lightly. **whiffler** *n.*